

SECRET

17 May 1951

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: CONVERSATION with []

1. I met [] at lunch on 15 May 1951. Among other things, the following were discussed:

a. I asked [] whether his people were in a position to buy Bulgarian newspapers for us in Sofia and forward them to our people in Greece through either Belgrade or Istanbul, thus assuring a regular supply of recent papers to our propaganda center. He promised to look into this matter and expressed the view that probably something could be done.

b. I asked [] what a Mr. Herbert was doing in this country, pointing out that Herbert has been seeing Dosti and Kotta, and that he appeared to be particularly interested in Albanian affairs. [] replied that Mr. Herbert has a personal interest in Albanian matters, his family having been closely connected with Albanian affairs for many years, and that he was here as a private individual, acting entirely on his own initiative and without the sanction of the British Service.

c. [] mentioned the question of the recent tripartite agreement in regard to stay-behinds. I stated that when I last talked with [] in this subject in London recently, [] had stated that a letter was on its way to [] asking him to determine from us whether, in the event of severe budgetary limitations on the British, we would be willing to assume more than a ~50% share of the financial burden involved. [] replied that he had received such a letter and would send me a memo asking for a statement of our views. I told him informally that I rather expected we would be willing to underwrite more than a 50% share if that became actually necessary.

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